



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, February 22, 2008

ARIZONA MOURNS THE LOSS OF EVAN MECHAM
Flags ordered at half-staff in honor of former Arizona Governor

PHOENIX – On behalf of all Arizonans, Governor Janet Napolitano today offered condolences to Florence Mecham, wife of former Arizona Governor Evan Mecham, and his family. The Governor also ordered flags at Arizona state buildings to be flown at half-staff today, in memory of former Governor Mecham. Mecham died Thursday; he was 83 years old.

Mecham served as the 17th Governor of Arizona from January 6, 1987 to April 4, 1988.

He was a fighter pilot in the U. S. Army Air Forces during World War II. Stationed in England, he was shot down on March 7, 1945 and was held as a prisoner of war for 22 days. During his service, he was decorated with the Air Medal and Purple Heart. Following the war, he moved to Arizona to continue his studies at Arizona State University from 1947 to 1950 majoring in management and economics.

The former Governor also served one term in the Arizona Senate from 1960 to 1962.

State flags will remain at half-staff through the day of the funeral for Governor Mecham. Funeral arrangements are pending.

For more information about the Office of the Governor, please visit www.azgovernor.gov.